

July 12, 2010
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Catherine Hinman
(407) 645-5311
chinman@morsemuseum.org

Coming This Summer to the Morse: New Exhibitions and More Tiffany Glass

Note to Editors: Attached is a high-resolution image of a dogwood blossom leaded-glass hanging shade, c. 1900, which will be installed at the Morse Museum in July as part of an update of its Tiffany exhibits.

WINTER PARK, Fla. —Summer at The Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art brings more to see, more to study, and more to learn about Louis Comfort Tiffany and the Museum's diverse collection. On July 20, the museum opens a new exhibition of images from its Tiffany Studios Study Photograph Collection and completes an update of the *Selected Works of Louis Comfort Tiffany* exhibition with two stunning Tiffany leaded-glass windows and more. On August 20, the Morse debuts *The Now and Then Room*, a new vignette adapted from a 1974 original by Jeannette Genius McKean.

Take a vacation from the heat this summer to enjoy the museum's refreshed galleries. Descriptions of the new installations are as follows:

A Church Record—Photographs from the Tiffany Studios Ecclesiastical Department *July 20, 2010 through September 4, 2011*

The Morse Museum recently completed an extensive multi-year conservation effort to stabilize the glass-plate negatives in its Tiffany Studios Study Photograph Collection and produce exhibit-quality images from those negatives. Work on the prints in this collection is ongoing. Among these archival images, the Museum discovered a unique series of photographs that document significant commissions and product offerings from Tiffany Studios' Ecclesiastical Department. More than 30 photographs from that group will be presented in the exhibition, providing a glimpse into the creative range of the department at the height of religious construction in America. Officially founded in 1889, the Ecclesiastical Department achieved unparalleled

commercial success within the Tiffany empire and was active for almost 50 years. Some of the museum's photographs from the department include images of a 1909 design of *The Risen Christ* for a leaded-glass window that was to be installed at First Presbyterian Church in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and 1906 interiors from the destroyed Madison Square Church in New York City. Additional images show memorial stones, baptismal fonts, and other ecclesiastical art that support Tiffany Studios' bold claim that it was "well equipped to undertake both the design and execution of all forms of church work in glass, fresco, metal, stone, or wood." Tiffany departmental ledgers and trade catalogs and other archival material supplement the exhibit and enhance understanding of these important images.

Gallery Update: Selected Works of Louis Comfort Tiffany

Opens July 20, 2010

The museum recently began an update of Tiffany exhibits with the installation of the *Rose* window, a 1906 work made for exhibition that reflects 18th-century French Rococo design with its central cruciform, four symmetrical quarters, and elaborate scrollwork. This work is one of two Tiffany exhibition windows returning to the museum's galleries for the first time since 2005. The other is the *Medallion* window, c.1892, which is based on medieval church windows that inspired the artist on visits to France. The gallery update also includes a large dogwood blossom leaded-glass hanging shade, c. 1900, and a rare Maple Branch bronze pottery vase, c. 1910, which was recently provided to the museum as a gift. Never exhibited, this vase was created to serve as a lamp base, though no shades are known to survive. A new display of Tiffany blown-glass vases and iridescent-glass tableware will round out the additions to the museum's *Selected Works of Louis Comfort Tiffany* installation.

The Now and Then Room

August 19, 2010 through September 4, 2011

This new vignette—adapted from a 1974 original that Jeannette Genius McKean (1909–89) installed at The Center Street Gallery in Winter Park—is planned around a mid-19th-century iron bed. The black bed, one of a pair from the museum's collection, is decorated with abalone shell flowers and birds and an intricate border pattern of both abalone shell and paint. This romantic room will also include a lithograph by Alphonse Mucha (1860–1939), paintings by both Jeannette and Hugh F. McKean (1908–95), a floral textile by Ava Maxwell, and a pair of Tiffany blown-glass candle lamps, c. 1905, that were a wedding gift to Jeannette's mother,

Elizabeth Morse Genius (1872–1928). Mrs. McKean, the museum's founder and an accomplished artist and interior designer, created many vignettes for exhibit over the course of her career, and this particular installation pays homage to her love of this form of expression. These themed interior scenes developed from objects in the collection are now a fond tradition at the Morse and a unique and popular exhibit with visitors.

More information may be found on the museum's Web site, www.morsemuseum.org. Museum hours are 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$1 for students, and free for children under 12.

###